



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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POTATO ACREAGE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR'S CROP

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 12, 2005--Washington growers planted an estimated 154,000 acres of potatoes for the 2005 crop, 6,000 acres less than 2004, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the lowest planted acreage in Washington since 1997.

Idaho has 330,000 acres planted to potatoes this year, 25,000 less than the 355,000 acres planted for the 2004 crop. This is the lowest planted acreage in Idaho since 1986. Oregon's planted acreage for 2005 is estimated at 35,000 acres compared to 37,000 acres in 2004. This reduction is due in part to the closure of a processing plant in the Columbia Basin. With 519,000 acres planted to potatoes for 2005, the Pacific Northwest accounted for 53 percent of the Nation's acres planted to fall potatoes.

U.S. fall potato planted acreage is estimated at 970.4 million acres, down 7 percent from last year and 12 percent below two years ago. Harvest is forecast from 955.7 million acres, down 7 percent from a year ago and 12 percent below 2003. This is the lowest level of planted and harvested acres of fall potatoes since 1957. This reduction is due in part to economic pressures, industry acreage reduction programs, and inclement weather at planting.

Eighty-seven percent of Washington's crop was planted to russets this year, with 10 percent planted to whites and 3 percent to reds. Idaho planted 95 percent of the crop to russets, 3 percent to whites and 2 percent to reds. Oregon planted 84 percent to russets, 14 percent to whites and 2 percent to reds.

Joe Parsons, NASS Acting Director of the Washington Field Office stated, "This is the first acreage estimate for the 2005 potato crop in Washington. The first production estimate for the 2005 crop will be released November 10. Final estimates for Washington's 2004 crop (acreage, production and disposition) will be published September 22.

To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa/press/potacres.pdf>

Find agricultural statistics for your county, State, and the Nation at www.usda.gov/nass/.

Fall Potatoes, 15 Major States, July 1, 2005

STATE	PLANTED			HARVESTED			YIELD 1/		PRODUCTION 1/	
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres						Cwt.		1,000 Cwt.	
Idaho	360.0	355.0	330.00	358.0	353.0	328.0	374		131,970	
Oregon	42.8	37.0	35.0	42.6	37.0	35.0	534		19,775	
Washington	163.0	160.0	154.0	162.0	159.0	154.0	590		93,810	
Pacific NW	565.8	552.0	519.0	562.6	549.0	517.0	422		237,321	
California	8.3	7.6	7.2	8.3	7.6	7.2	510		3,876	
Colorado	66.3	65.0	58.2	65.7	64.3	58.0	360		23,148	
Maine	66.0	63.5	55.5	65.5	62.0	54.5	310		19,220	
Michigan	46.0	43.0	43.0	45.5	42.0	42.0	325		13,650	
Minnesota	60.0	47.0	46.0	58.0	44.0	42.0	430		18,920	
Montana	10.7	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.6	10.9	335		3,551	
Nebraska	23.5	22.0	20.0	23.2	21.6	19.6	430		9,288	
New York	22.2	20.0	20.5	21.7	19.2	20.1	270		5,184	
North Dakota	117.0	105.0	90.0	112.0	101.0	86.0	265		26,765	
Ohio	4.5	3.7	3.6	4.3	3.6	3.5	300		1,080	
Pennsylvania	13.0	12.0	11.5	12.5	11.0	11.0	240		2,640	
Wisconsin	81.0	71.0	71.0	80.0	70.0	70.0	435		30,450	
Total 15 States	1,084.3	1,022.5	956.5	1,069.9	1,005.9	941.8	402		403,946	
U.S. Fall Total	1,106.0	1,039.7	970.4	1,090.9	1,022.8	955.7	401		410,023	

1/ The forecast of fall potato production will be released November 12, 2005.

Fall Potatoes: Percentage of Acreage Planted by Type, 11 Major States, 2003-2005 Crops

STATE	POTATO TYPES 1/								
	REDS			WHITES			RUSSETS		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
	Percent								
Colorado	5	5	4	12	13	11	83	82	85
Idaho	2	2	2	3	3	3	95	95	95
Maine	4	5	4	57	51	48	39	44	48
Michigan	4	3	2	83	84	83	13	13	15
Minnesota	28	23	25	11	11	9	61	66	66
New York	-	5	5	100	90	90	-	5	5
North Dakota	22	17	20	33	39	32	45	44	48
Oregon	2	4	2	26	22	14	72	74	84
Pennsylvania	-	4	6	100	96	94	-	-	-
Washington	6	3	3	9	9	10	85	88	87
Wisconsin	10	11	11	38	32	32	52	57	57
11 State Average	7	6	6	23	21	20	70	73	74

1/ Predominant type shown may include small portion of other type(s) constituting less than 1 percent of the State's total. Yellow flesh potatoes are reported under white types. Blue types are reported under red types.